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(57) Abstract: An interferometric light modulator includes a base and a ribbon suspended above the base. The ribbon has a central region and first and second conducting regions located outside of the central regions. The base includes a second mirror located parallel and adjacent to the first mirror so that the first and second mirrors form an interferometric cavity. An electrical bias applied to the first and second conducting regions adjusts the interferometric cavity in order to modulate light which is incident upon the central region of the ribbon. In an alternative interferometric light modulator, the light is incident upon a second central region of the base.



(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
13 March 2003

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

National Application No

PCT/US 01/28694

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G02B26/02 G01J3/26

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G02B G01J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 835 255 A (MILES MARK W) 10 November 1998 (1998-11-10) cited in the application	1-7, 9, 11-21
Y	column 13, line 25 - line 64 column 17, line 66 - column 18, line 6 column 19, line 56 - line 60 figure 20	8, 10
Y	WO 99 34484 A (CORETEK INC) 8 July 1999 (1999-07-08) page 10, paragraph 1	8, 10
A	US 4 859 060 A (HIJIKIGAWA MASAYA ET AL) 22 August 1989 (1989-08-22) column 11, line 17 - line 25	1, 16, 17

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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G document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

2 December 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

11/12/2002

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